

*Patent Application Serial No. 10/589,254
Reply to Office Action dated September 22, 2008*

REMARKS

The claims are revised for clarity. In response to the outstanding Office Action:

Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Andrews et al., US 5,974,016. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Cartridge. Andrews is directed to a disc drive with a tray on which a *bare* disc is mounted, and in which correct setting of the disc may be verified (col. 2, line 33). Andrews' "nest [well] 26 shaped to receive a data disc (FIG.2) [see col. 4, line 23]" is round (see Fig. 1) for accepting a bare disc.

No cartridge is disclosed. The rejection asserts a cartridge (at page 2, ¶ 3) but provides no reference numeral in support of the asserted anticipation.

Information Hole. With respect, while the rejection twice mentions an information hole (¶ 3 on page 2), as with the cartridge, no reference numeral is cited for this feature. There is no support for the assertion that an information hole is disclosed.

The Examiner is invited to consider that the physical configuration of Andrews' bare disc, which is completely symmetrical, *cannot* convey information. There is no information hole—only, perhaps, a center hole for rotation.

Frame Side. Furthermore, Andrews lacks a switch section disposed on a frame side. In Andrews, switch mechanisms 32) are provided directly on the tray, near the periphery of the nest 26 (Fig. 2).

Such an arrangement requires the wiring coupled to the switch to be longer than the distance of advancement and retraction of the tray, and long wiring is likely to interfere with the tray or the frame, thus hindering the movement of the tray. In contrast, the Applicants' switch section is provided on the frame side, and the wiring connected to the switch section can go

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along the frame, so that the interference against the tray can be prevented and the arrangement of the switch and wiring can be more freely designed.

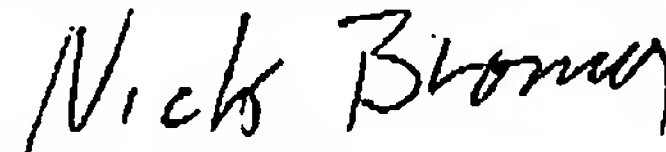
Detecting Information. Since there is no information hole on the disc, no unit for detecting an information hole can possibly be disclosed by Andrews.

State. The Examiner asserts that the state of Andrews' recording medium is detected by sensors 32. Andrews explains (col. 3, lines 39-54) that the purpose of the sensors is to determine if the bare disc is "correctly loaded" and three sensors are used, spaced at 120 degrees. There is no single switch that can detect the "state" (correctly loaded, or cocked), so the singular "switch section" of the claims is not anticipated.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, the application is submitted to be in condition for allowance, which action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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